FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 FEBRUARY 1985

Lebanon

IDF Operation — The IDF killed one "terrorist" and wounded two others when troops marched into four villages in southern Lebanon on 21 February, Jerusalem radio reported. IDF troops later left the villages, the radio added. In one of the villages, 'Arab Salim, the IDF expelled 38 inhabitants for involvement in hostile "terrorist" activities, according to Jerusalem television. Senior IDF officers told Jerusalem radio that operations in "hostile" southern Lebanese villages will continue.

Security — While communist and socialist gunmen roam the streets, the Lebanese Army has set up barricades near the U.S. Embassy and instituted patrols in West Beirut to prevent any security disruptions, Voice of Lebanon radio announced.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres discussed bilateral relations and Middle East developments during two meetings with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu in Bucharest on 21 February, AGERPRES reported. Peres asked Ceausescu to try to improve PRC-Israeli relations and "blunt the edge" of USSR "hostility" so that Israel can consider a UN-sponsored Middle East conference, according to *THE JERUSALEM POST*.

In what is viewed as an Egyptian "gesture," Energy Minister Moshe Shahal has been invited to pay an official visit to Egypt next week, Jerusalem television announced. This is the first visit by an Israeli minister "in a long time," the television noted.

Algeria-Morocco Summit

Algeria and Morocco have decided to hold a two-country summit to solve the Western Sahara issue, KUNA reported citing diplomatic sources in Paris.

King Fahd's U.S. Visit

While a 17 February article in *AL-JAZIRAH* described King Fahd's U.S. talks as achieving "extraordinary results," KUNA reports that the London magazine *AL-TADAMUN* opined that King Fahd came out of his meetings with U.S. officials with the impression that there was still a need to prepare for "confrontation" with Israel.

Pakistan

At least 1,500 people, including opposition leaders, have been detained in Sind Province as a "precautionary" measure to ensure peaceful polling in the 25 February general election according to Karachi police, AFP reported. Meanwhile, President Ziaul Haq has promulgated an ordinance empowering any person performing election duties or Armed Forces personnel with the powers of a first class magistrate concerning offenses under the Representation of Peoples Act, Karachi radio announced.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 036 *22 February 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Defense Ministry Marks Soviet Army Anniversary ..... C 1
Budapest Radio Interviews Brig Gen Azemi ..... C 1
Mujahidin Plan Demonstrations for Anniversary *[Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan]* ..... C 2

INDIA

Gandhi Comments on U.S. Arms Supply to Pakistan ..... E 1
Gandhi Assures Assistance to Sri Lankan Refugees ..... E 1
Gandhi on Talks With Akalis, Black Market ..... E 1
Gandhi Sends Condolences on Death of Candidate ..... E 1
Judicial Inquiry Ordered ..... E 1
17 Congress-I Party Members Expelled in Himachal ..... E 1
Executives of 3 Nationalized Banks Dismissed *[AFP]* ..... E 2

PAKISTAN

Ziaul Haq Appoints New Air Force Chief ..... F 1
1,500 Opposition Party Members Arrested in Sind ..... F 1
Ordinance Gives Poll Officers Magistrate Power ..... F 1
10,000 Afghan Refugees Arriving Every Month ..... F 1
Afghan Mujahidin Tighten Siege in Paktia Province ..... F 1
JASARAT Editorial Discusses Freedom of Press *[3 Feb]* ..... F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH

Delhi: Opposition Plans Demonstrations 24 Feb ..... G 1
Delhi: Opposition Firm on Boycotting Elections ..... G 1
Spokesman on Need for New Ganges Water Agreement ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

Government Debates Extending State of Emergency ..... G 1
State of Emergency Extended ..... G 1
AFP: Tamils Kidnap 2 Government Officials ..... G 1
Government Confirms Abduction ..... G 2
Ministry of State Rebuts Militant Tamils' Claim ..... G 2

IRAN

Khamene'i Speaks on Iran's Open-Door Policy ..... I 1
Musavi Addresses Cabinet on Goods Rationing ..... I 1
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets Lebanon's Fadlallah ..... I 1
Majlis Continues Debate on Draft Budget ..... I 1
Foreign Policy Committee Congratulates Beirut ..... I 2
Economic Delegation Visits Stockholm for Talks *[cross-reference]* ..... I 2
Nateq-Nuri Rejects Any Ceasefire With Iraq ..... I 2
Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2,011 ..... I 2
Guards Corps Announces Call for Iraqi Volunteers ..... I 3
SAIRI Denounces Saddam's Amnesty to Opposition ..... I 3
SAIRI Spokesman Urges Toppling of Baghdad Regime ..... I 3
IRNA Reports on Afghan Mujahidin Actions ..... I 3
32 Soviet Soldiers Killed ..... I 3
Farah Province Clash ..... I 3
Soviet Warplanes Level Afghan Village ..... I 3
Tudeh-Saudi Communist Party Statement Viewed *[National Voice of Iran]* ..... I 4

Defense Ministry Marks Soviet Army Anniversary
LD211901 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Excerpts] At a glorious meeting today generals, officers, and men of the DRA Ministry of Defense and the headquarters of the chief of the General Staff marked the 67th founding anniversary of the USSR's Red Army and Navy.

The first deputy head of the Army's Political Affairs Department, in the presence of Defense Minister Brigadier General Nazar Muhammad, and a number of generals of the Soviet Union's limited units in Afghanistan, opened the meeting. Brigadier General Nabi Azemi, first deputy minister of defense, then read the basic report. Commendation certificates for a number of generals and officers of the DRA Army were presented at this meeting.

Budapest Radio Interviews Brig Gen Azemi
LD190523 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2120 GMT 18 Feb 85

[From the "Ten Minutes Foreign Politics" program — Part I of "Kabul Close-Ups" by Miklos Keleti; all passages in quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] It is not a very imaginative start to a travel diary to begin with the arrival at the airport. Despite this, I ask the listener not to see this as a routine opening if I begin my report with my experiences at the airport. For a few months ago an explosion took place in the waiting lounge at Kabul Airport that resulted in deaths. It was also reported that one of the Afghan passenger planes was attacked by missile fire. In other words the security of the airport or of air traffic at the moment, or the insecurity of these, is a little bit the mirror image of the general situation in Kabul. So what did I experience during my visit in January this year?

Security regulations were thoroughly tightened at the airport and surroundings. Even cars with diplomatic number plates are not allowed to drive to the front of the main building. A separate parking place was created for them at a considerable distance from the waiting lounge. Taxis are stopped as far as a kilometer away from the airport. One is allowed to enter the waiting lounge only after strict searches.

Since the autumn of last year no incident of any kind occurred at the airport and the traffic is undisturbed. Nabi Azemi, brigadier general, first deputy minister of national defense, gave me a detailed briefing on the Army's current position. The general was given his important position about a year ago, shortly after completing his studies in the Moscow Military Academy of the General Staff K.Ye. Voroshilov. Before that, he was an active participant in the military takeover and overthrow of the monarchy that was an unambiguous left turn for Afghanistan in 1978. Therefore, Azemi's personal experiences date from when the factional fight within the People's Democratic Party made its impact felt in the Army as well. What is its position now? Has it been possible to recreate unity since unity is an issue of survival for the Army? This was my first question.

[Azemi in vernacular with superimposed translation] "Yes, this has been achieved, particularly this past year, 1984, which brought a decisive change. The activity of the newly-appointed commissars, political commissars, was successful and today the overwhelming majority of the officer corps has reached a high level of political consciousness. Meanwhile, the quality of armament has also improved. We have received modern means of fighting from the Soviet Union."

How many soldiers currently serve in the Afghan Army?

[Azemi] "We have enough soldiers to successfully complete our tasks. I know that there is talk in the Western press about 40,000 soldiers. I cannot give you a concrete figure but I remind you that not long ago we reduced draft service from 3 to 2 years."

Looking at the soldiers patrolling on the streets, many of them appear to belong to the 30-40 years age category. In other words, reservists too are called up in good numbers for draft service which was just reduced. It is also a fact that 60 percent of the 100,000 party members serve in the revolutionary militia. In other words, an increase of the military force continues to remain a political issue of the first order. How does the first deputy minister of national defense of the Kabul government judge the present strength and position of the counterrevolutionaries?

[Azemi] "I said just now that in 1984 the striking power of our Army took a jump ahead in improvement. Well, exactly the opposite of this is characteristic of the counterrevolutionaries. We bombed to pulp, we almost erased from the face of the earth one of their most important bases, which was believed earlier to be almost impregnable, their base in the Panjsher River Valley. We launched similar large scale military maneuvers in the southern, and southeastern districts of the country where they had bases. I can state that at present there isn't a large unbroken territory that is under counterrevolutionary control."

Does that mean that the government controls the entire territory of the country?

[Azemi] "We firmly control the provincial centers, and administrative centers of smaller settlements as well. At the same time, there are still territories where our control does not yet extend. These are primarily the mountain regions where access is difficult and where counterrevolutionary groups of 10-20-30 men camp who, occasionally, attack villages and towns as well."

In connection with the military situation, the Afghan territories bordering Pakistan are mentioned most often, but I wonder what the situation is in the West, in the Western areas on the border with Iran. Brig Gen Azemi is qualified to answer this question as well because earlier it was precisely in this region that he served. He was the military commander of the Herat Military District.

[Azemi] "On the basis of my personal experience I can state that there is not much difference between the two border regions. According to my knowledge, 25 training camps are operating on Iranian territory, that is counterrevolutionary centers are there too and not only in Pakistan. The reactionary religious leaders play a particularly major role in the actions against us."

In the course of talks with the deputy defense minister too it was mentioned that there was calm in Kabul at present. At the same time, Brig Gen Azemi recalled that the situation was different a few months ago.

[Azemi] "The counterrevolutionaries avoid face-to-face fighting, frontal conflicts. In my opinion, their weakness was proved by all they did during November in Kabul and in its surroundings.

"Naturally, these attacks — even considering the poor targeting — presented a danger. Therefore, with the use of air forces and heavy artillery, we launched a counteroffensive. We cleared part of the territory from which the missiles were fired and extended the security ring around the capital to five kilometers. We closed the roads, searched through the terrain and seized several hundreds of their missiles."

Since then there has been calm in Kabul and the 2 million residents of the capital are living their normal every day lives. True, at the same time they have to adapt to some of the phenomena that accompany war — the fact that before 1978 only 600,000 people lived in the Afghan capital. Since, however, a town and Kabul in particular, is in general safer than the smaller villages, the number of residents in the capital trebled in the last 7 years. Only looking at the figures one would believe that this immigration could lead to serious tensions in goods supplies.

So, how does the economy operate in a country that belonged for years to the conflict zones of world politics? To what extent did the military and political developments affect the traditional forms of economic operation and property relations? In the second half of the Afghanistan travel diary, you may hear the answer to these questions.

Mujahidin Plan Demonstrations for Anniversary

GF201406 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Pashto 1700 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Summary from poor reception] On the eve of the 22 February anniversary marking the day when many of our nationalist brothers of the resistance were killed and wounded in Kabul by the occupationist forces and their mercenaries, seven organizations of the Muslim mujahidin in Afghanistan have called on the Afghan people to shout the infidel-shattering slogan "Allah o Akbar" [God is great]

The communique issued by the mujahidin says that we mujahidin will continue on the path set by those killed and wounded on 22 February until our last breath. On Thursday evening the people in concert will shout "Allah o Akbar" in honor of those martyrs and in condemnation of the criminal Russians. They will do so between 2000 and 2010 Kabul time, 1900 to 1910 Tehran time, 2030 to 2040 Islamabad time.

The communique calls on brothers and sisters within and without the country to shout the slogan at the time wherever they happen to be.

The text of the communique will be broadcast tomorrow evening on the Voice of the Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan.

Gandhi Comments on U.S. Arms Supply to Pakistan

BK220949 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the hopes for closer ties with the United States are being hindered by the continued U.S. arms supply to Pakistan. In an interview to an American daily, the *LOS ANGELES TIMES*, Mr Gandhi said the future of U.S.-India relations must depend on the policy of Washington. We have an open mind but there have been problems with the arming of Pakistan, he added. Mr Gandhi said we see these weapons as ultimately being used against us. This is the biggest problem we have with the United States in our region.

The prime minister pointed out that India has so far kept its military spending to a little more than 3 percent of the country's gross national product. This is much lower than most of other countries.

India's foreign policy, he said, is very balanced. We have tried to judge each case on its own merit. The prime minister said India wants to live in peace with its neighbors.

Gandhi Assures Assistance to Sri Lankan Refugees

BK220311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] The prime minister has assured financial assistance to the refugees from Sri Lanka and relief to the families of fishermen killed in the recent attack by Sri Lankan Navy within Indian territorial waters. In a message to the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, Mr Rajiv Gandhi has said the coast guard has been instructed to strengthen the patrol and to ensure the safety of Indian fishermen.

According to a Tamil Nadu government press release in Madras, the prime minister has said the center is equally concerned at the recent events in the Indian territorial waters leading to the loss of lives of Indian fishermen.

Over 300 Sri Lankan refugees arrived at Rameswaram yesterday. According to agency reports most of them are from Pesalai, Jaffna, and Mannar areas. With this, nearly 7,000 Tamils have reached Rameswaram since the beginning of this month. Meanwhile, the entire fishing village of Pesalai in Northern Sri Lanka is reported to be empty with the Tamil inhabitants having fled to places of safety.

Gandhi on Talks With Akalis, Black Market

BK210347 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] A 3-pronged action plan will soon be launched to end the menace of black money. In an interview with a Bombay English weekly, the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, said he is not in favor of demonetization for wiping out black money. Referring to the antidefection bill, Mr Gandhi said he did not see any reason why a similar law against black money and black marketing should not succeed.

On the Punjab problem, the prime minister said he is prepared to discuss anything with the Akalis, but it will have to be within the framework of the Constitution. The government will like the Akalis to dissociate themselves from the terrorists and extremists.

Gandhi Sends Condolences on Death of Candidate

BK211627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] In Rajasthan, an independent MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly], Mr Man Singh, who reportedly rammed his jeep into the state chief minister's helicopter, was killed today during a clash with the police. An official spokesman said in Jaipur that Mr Man Singh started firing on the police party which had gone to Deeg town in Bharatpur District to arrest him under the criminal case registered yesterday. The police had to return the fire in self-defense, killing Mr Man Singh. Two of his supporters, who were injured in the incident, later died on their way to the hospital.

As reported earlier, the state chief minister, Mr Shiv Charan Mathur, had a narrow escape yesterday when Mr Man Singh allegedly dashed his jeep into the helicopter. Mr Man Singh was contesting the assembly election from Deeg constituency as an independent candidate. Rajasthan government has ordered a judicial inquiry by a high court judge into the circumstances leading to the death of Mr Man Singh. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, sent a message of condolence to the bereaved family. The prime minister said that he is grieved to learn of the death under unfortunate circumstances. The minister of state for steel, Mr Natwar Singh, is going to Bharatpur to be present at the cremation and offer Mr Rajiv Gandhi's condolences. In a message, Mr Natwar Singh said that the passing away of Mr Man Singh is a great shock to him. The tragic circumstances of his death are a matter of profound regret.

Judicial Inquiry Ordered

BK220955 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] In Rajasthan, the assembly polls in Deeg constituency of Bharatpur District has been countermanded. This follows the death of an independent contesting candidate, Mr Man Singh. As already reported, Mr Man Singh was killed yesterday in a clash with the police. The state government has already ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident.

17 Congress-I Party Members Expelled in Himachal

BK220959 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] A PTI report from Simla says that 17 Congress-I Party members, including the former Himachal revenue minister, Mr Shiv Kumar, have been expelled for antiparty activities. Mr Shiv Kumar had earlier resigned from the ministry following denial of party ticket in the assembly elections; 14 of the expelled are contesting as independents.

Executives of 3 Nationalized Banks Dismissed

HK190456 Hong Kong AFP in English 0415 GMT 19 Feb 85

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 19 (AFP) — Top executives of three nationalised banks were sacked by the government Monday without specifying any reason, prompting observers to say the move was the first in a series of steps to root out corruption and eliminate inefficiency.

A government notificaiton said the chief executives of Central Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and the executive director of Bank of Baroda were dismissed from their services starting Monday.

This was the first time that three ranking executives of the banks were dismissed at a time, informed sources said.

India media reports today said that the measure was part of action plan of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to tone up his administration.

There are 14 nationalised banks in the country.

Ziaul Haq Appoints New Air Force Chief

BK211558 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The president has appointed Air Marshal Jamal Ahmad Khan as Air Force chief effective 6 March. Air Marshal Jamal Ahmad Khan is at present the vice chief of air staff, and he has the splendid [shan dar] experience of working in the senior command and [words indistinct] senior positions in Pakistan and overseas.

1,500 Opposition Party Members Arrested in Sind

HK211240 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, Feb 21 (AFP) — At least 1,500 persons, including opposition leaders, have been detained in Sind Province, southern Pakistan, as a "precautionary" measure to ensure peaceful polling in the February 25 general election, police said here today.

About 600 people had been detained in Karachi, the capital of Sind and the country's only port city, and police said they expected more arrests in the next three days.

Among those arrested are more leaders of the opposition political parties comprising the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD), an eleven-party alliance. Other prominent MRD figures had been arrested in earlier police raids.

The alliance has appealed to the people to boycott the election, and provincial elections three days later, being held on a non-party basis with a martial law ban on political processions or public meetings.

MRD leaders have described the forthcoming polls as "fraudulent" and urged the people to stay at home February 25, which has been declared a public holiday by the regime of President Mohammed Ziaul Haq.

Charges brought against people here and elsewhere include endangering public peace and order, holding meetings at public places in defiance of the martial law ban, using loudspeakers — candidates can only use megaphones to address their unofficial meetings — and keeping unlicensed weapons.

In Lahore, the Punjab capital, police yesterday broke up a public rally held by the MRD in Lahore, and arrested 20 local leaders.

Ordinance Gives Poll Officers Magistrate Power

BK211716 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] An ordinance has been promulgated by the president amending the Representation of Peoples Act. It authorizes the Election Commission to empower any person performing duties in connection with an election or a person of the Armed Forces or any officer exercising powers of a civil or criminal court with the powers of a first class magistrate in respect of the offenses punishable under some specified clauses of the act. These offenses relate to impersonation for bogus voting, prohibition of public meetings during 48 hours prior to polling, prohibition of canvassing in or near the polling station, disorderly conduct near polling stations, and tampering with ballot papers. The amended provisions provide for trial of these offenses in a summary manner.

In a separate notification, the Election Commission has conferred the powers of a first class magistrate on all returning officers and presiding officers of polling stations. They have been empowered to try offenses in a summary manner and award adequate punishment.

10,000 Afghan Refugees Arriving Every Month

BK201539 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] The Northwest Frontier Province governor has told newsmen that candidates are running their election campaign in an extremely satisfactory manner. He said, in general, the election campaign is being run withing bounds of morality and decency. He commended the candidates for remaining disciplined.

Answering a question, he said he hopes that the people will cast their votes in large numbers on the polling day. He also said when polling takes place for the provincial assembly on 28 February, the provincial council and provincial cabinet will automatically cease to function.

Answering another question, he said even now an average of 10,000 Afghan refugees are coming to Pakistan every month.

Afghan Mujahidin Tighten Siege in Paktia Province

BK211104 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin are reported to have tightened the siege of the provincial headquarters of (Sherra), an important cantonment of Orgun in Paktia Province where fresh Soviet troops were deployed a few days ago. The mujahidin had been shelling the area constantly. Reports say the mujahidin have foiled two attempts to break the siege of the Orgun cantonment during the last 1 week.

JASARAT Editorial Discusses Freedom of Press

GF191100 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 3 Feb 85 p 3

[Editorial: "The Demand of Free Journalists"]

[Excerpts] The editors of Pakistan's papers have once again asked the government to free the press. They have demanded withdrawal of curbs and the unnecessary shackles put on journalism. A recent meeting of the newspaper editors council's standing committee said that the existing curbs are contrary to the needs of free elections.

In a resolution passed at the meeting, the persistent press "advice" system and the reduction in government advertisements given to papers were condemned. The resolution also condemned

censorship imposed on *AMAN* daily of Karachi. The resolution demanded that the press be allowed to inform the public about happenings inside and outside the country.

However, this was not the first such protest lodged by Pakistani newspaper editors. Whenever the editors meet and review the press situation in the country, they feel that journalism in the country is being subjected to regrettable and degrading constrictions. And the conditions are still worsening rather than improving. The misery the Pakistani press is undergoing has many causes and sources. First among them are the chains put on it and the threats meted out by the government which sometimes are followed by actual punishments.

AMAN daily of Karachi is a good example. It was not getting any advertisements and had its newsprint quota cancelled. Today it is being subjected to the pre-censorship stigma. Only recently have curbs placed on newspaper owners and newspaper organizations regarding newsprint quotas and allocation of government advertisements been relaxed. And that after a long wait. However, censorship continues.

Another case is *JASARAT* daily which has been suffering a cut in advertisements for the past year as a retaliatory measure against it. *THE MUSLIM*, *NAWA-E WAQT*, and *JANG* have also suffered cuts in advertisements. There is little understanding between the government and the newspapers about the current situation. It is the government that has failed to improve relations with the press. The government is using reduced advertisements as its favorite weapon. This weapon is used with such arrogance and unbecoming behavior that no improvement in relations is expected.

We are sure that if talks are tried, an understanding can be reached because there is no newspaper in Pakistan that prefers a confrontation with the government. However if the government or its officials hope to appear as gods of journalism and declare "I am your great god" or demand that the journalistic world prostrate itself before them, it will be asking too much. In this case, one should resist such effectations in a brave manner. Fortunately, our journalism has always resisted that kind of submission to the degrading attitude of the government.

However what is being doled out today is hard enough. There is no doubt that the government gives the papers their newsprint quota, it gives them advertisements, but if it also wanted no free news or commentaries, it would try to bribe the newspapers through the quotas. This sort of thing does not become any government that calls Islam a guiding light. There is no coersion in Islam whose religion and God gives so much choice to the people. Therefore it can hardly be expected that criticism of the government, or its officials, or again some very special individuals can end.

Accountability is the basis of an Islamic state and in the present day world even the infidels have this right of criticism in the press. Then why, we as Muslims, should withhold such a right from the press? If this is to be so, then what kind of Islam is it? It is the insulting attitude of the government toward the newspapers that has made newspapers lose their prestige. In fact the key to the prestige of the press among the people is in the hands of the government. If the government respects the press the people will also respect it.

One should accept this truth that no nation can walk the path of honor and progress whose rulers are not ready to accept an opposition or censor over their actions or who want to destroy all opposition and disagreement.

The seeds of national freedom lie in a free press and this tree can hardly bear fruit unless it is left free to grow and prosper: And esepcially when there are elections in the country, or when there is talk of reintroducing democracy. We consider freedom of the press an imperative condition. With the alternative, a muzzled press, democracy will become merely a drama.

BANGLADESH

Delhi: Opposition Plans Demonstrations 24 Feb

BK220315 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, the Awami League has announced a program of demonstrations and protest processions on Sunday [24 February], the day for filing of nomination papers for the general elections in April. At a rally in Dhaka, the alliance also said its members have been ordered not to file nomination papers. A resolution confirmed that the Awami League will boycott the elections. It said the military government has not met its demand for the withdrawal of martial law and setting up of a neutral caretaker government.

Delhi: Opposition Firm on Boycotting Elections

BK201355 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] In Bangladesh, the leader of the 7-party opposition alliance has again said that the alliance will not participate in the parliamentary elections unless their 5-point demands are accepted by the military government. In an appeal to the people Mrs Khaleda Zia said that those who will participate in the poll will be betraying the national cause.

Spokesman on Need for New Ganges Water Agreement

BK201500 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] Bangladesh has expressed the urgent need for a fresh agreement on sharing the Ganges waters between Bangladesh and India. A Foreign Office spokesman made the comment in Dhaka today when his attention was drawn to a news item published in a Dhaka daily on the question. The spokesman emphasized that in the absence of an agreement, any unilateral diversion of water by the upper riparian country is contrary to the recognized principles and practices of international law, and hence, there is an urgent need for a fresh agreement. He said this year's flow is much less than the actual requirements of Bangladesh.

SRI LANKA

Government Debates Extending State of Emergency

HK220826 Hong Kong AFP in English 0739 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Colombo, Feb 22 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Parliament was today debating a further extension to the state of emergency in the country following renewed attacks by Tamil separatists seeking to set up an independent state in the north and east.

The government's massive majority ensured that it would secure the required two-thirds majority in the vote later today to push through a further extension to the state of emergency which was first declared in May 1983, observers said.

Opposition parties were expected to oppose an extension arguing that it was unnecessary and was being used by the government to suppress legitimate dissent, harrass opponents and censor news, they added.

Opening the parliamentary session on Tuesday, President Junius Jayewardene said that the separatists were changing their hit-and-run strategy and preparing for a head on clash with the Armed Forces.

The government called for the renewal of the nationwide emergency because of what it said was increasing violence not only in the separatist ridden north and east but also elsewhere in the country.

President Jayewardene last night praised the soldiers who he said had repulsed an attack by Tamil separatists last week on an Army camp at Kokkilai in the northeast.

Speaking at a public rally, he reiterated the government's determination to resettle families displaced by separatist attacks on villages in the area and said the government would continue in its efforts to stamp out separatist violence.

President Jayewardene said that the country was now at war in the Northern Province. He said that if the war was lost, it would mean the end not only of the majority Sinhalese race but also of other communities such as the Tamils and Moslems.

Meanwhile, the State Ministry denied reports by a Tamil separatist group which claimed in India that it had killed 134 soldiers at the Kokkilai camp and elsewhere.

The ministry said that four soldiers and 14 "terrorists" were killed in last week's encounters but denied that the camps at Kokkilai and Tiriyai had been closed.

State of Emergency Extended

BK221325 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] A resolution to extend the state of emergency by another month was passed in Parliament today by a two-thirds majority. One hundred and twenty-six members voted for the resolution, while the sole dissenter was the Communist member for Kalawana Sarath Muttetuwegama. The Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna abstained from voting.

AFP: Tamils Kidnap 2 Government Officials

HK220822 Hong Kong AFP in English 0757 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Colombo, Feb 22 (AFP) — Two government officials from the northeastern town of Mullaittivu were kidnapped today by Tamil separatists, official sources said.

The State Ministry said that the officials, identified as K. Nanachandran and Kirupathilingam were travelling by bus to the northern capital of Jaffna when they were abducted.

The bus in which they were travelling was stopped between the towns of Parantan and Visuamadu, outside the Jaffna Peninsula, by an armed gang believed to be separatists.

The two officers, both Tamils, were forced off the bus and taken away, initial reports said.

Unconfirmed reports said that the daughter of one of the officials was also in the bus at the time.

State Ministry sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that they were unable to confirm whether the daughter was on the bus and whether she had also been kidnapped.

Government Confirms Abduction

BK221326 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Text] Two government officials, Mr K.K. Nanachandran, government agent [GA], Mullaittivu, and Mr Kirupathilingam, additional director, planning, Mullaittivu, were abducted by terrorists early this morning while traveling by bus to Jaffna.

The incident occurred at a point between Parantan and Visuamadu.

The government appealed to the people to provide information regarding the whereabouts of these officers. Those with information should contact the GA, Jaffna, or the GA, Killinochchi.

Ministry of State Rebuts Militant Tamils' Claim

BK221132 Colombo International Service in English 1030 22 Feb 85

[Text] AFP and REUTER reports from New Delhi quoting the PTI news agency have stated that Tamil militants in Sri Lanka killed 134 soldiers in an assault on two Army camps in the north on February 13. This claim is reported to have been made by the terrorist group called LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in Madras. It further states that these Army camps have been closed after the attack and the Army personnel transferred to Padeniya.

The Ministry of State says this story as reported by AFP, REUTER, and PTI is yet another false claim made by a terrorist organization. It is a complete distortion of the actual events that took place on February 13 when the security forces successfully repulsed an attack by the terrorists. During this attack, 4 soldiers lost their lives while 14 terrorists were killed and several others injured while trying to escape.

The Army also captured a large quantity of explosives, grenades, rifles, SMGG [expansion unknown], and radio communication equipment. On the following day in a combing out operation, the security forces encircled the terrorist hideout and in the shootout that ensued, 52 terrorists were killed. There were no casualties among the security forces. Further, the Army camps at Kokkilai and Tiriyai have not been closed. The government had [words indistinct] to refute a similar false claim made by a terrorist organization and reported by some new agencies.

Khamene'i Speaks on Iran's Open-Door Policy

LD212036 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i today said:

The open doors policy which has been declared by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, during the last few months will be Iran's definite policy; and with the exception of those countries which have been specified, Iran will hold relations with all the other world countries.

The president then added: In holding relations with other countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran will act with regards to its objectives and policies, and by taking into consideration its interests.

Mr Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, who delivered a speech among a number of clerics in Tehran, once again laid emphasis on the full preparedness of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in safeguarding the frontiers of the Islamic Iran and maintaining security in the Persian Gulf region; and further said:

The fighting power of the Air Force of the Army of Islam, which was put to display during the ceremonies commemorating the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, making use of only part of the equipment, amazed the world's people [sentence as heard].

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i laid emphasis on the fact that today the direction of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its decision-making bodies is towards Islam.

Musavi Addresses Cabinet on Goods Rationing

LD201240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] The commerce minister presented a report to today's Cabinet session concerning removing restrictions on a number of items needed by the public, including textiles and 23 other items. He announced that at the moment, studies are being carried out about removing restrictions on the distribution of five other items.

In today's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Musavi, while praising efforts by the relevant officials and expressing hope that in the future other steps will be taken in removing restriction on the distribution of some other items, said: For a long time, efforts have been made in improving the quality of goods distribution. In view of the considerable increase in production which is due to the economic and commercial policies of the government this has now been made possible. By providing greater support for production and improving the quality of domestic goods, the government should bring about new changes in this field.

Mr Banki, minister of state in charge of plan and budget organization, also presented a report about the progress of implementing the plan on supervising development projects, and reports concerning 871 development projects were submitted to the cabinet. In today's cabinet session, the following allocations were approved:

— 1.3 billion rials for covering the deficit of the current allocations of regional water companies;
— 2.499 billion rials support for various municipalities of the country, throughout the Ministry of Interior;
— 200 million rials to Water Department of Fars Province, for providing drinking and irrigation water for Abadeh;
— 200 million rials to the central headquarters of the committees in charge of land allocation, on the basis of Note 59;
— 100 million rials to Water Department of Chahar-mahal va Bakhtiari for the project to carry out irrigation work in that province;
— 500 million rials for the completion of work on Jiroft dam, on the basis of note 59;

— increasing the allocations for the project to supply drinking water to Esfahan and Shahinshahr from 500 million rials to 1.4 billion rials.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets Lebanon's Fadlallah

LD212329 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA — Majlis speaker Rafsanjani said today that solidarity and cooperation between Sunni and Shi'ite ulema in the current crucial period in Lebanon would play a key role in the future of the country.

Rafsanjani made the comment in a meeting with the Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim leader, Shaykh Mohammad Husayn Fadlallah, who along with the leader of the Towhid Movement, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, has been in Iran for the past three weeks.

He said in the wake of the "disgraceful" early withdrawal of the Zionist forces from southern Lebanon, all Muslims, especially the ulema there should organise resistance cells and strengthen their ranks so that "the enemy will not dare come back."

"The war in Lebanon is one between Islam and kufr (infidelity) and so far, with the grace of Allah, Muslims have become proud with the struggle and resistance," Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani added.

Rafsanjani said he was confident Lebanese ulema would make the best use of the experiences of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, in the struggle against world arrogance.

Majlis Continues Debate on Draft Budget

LD211735 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21, IRNA — Majlis deputies continued debate on the 1364 (March 1985 - March 1986) national budget bill with supporters praising it for lesser dependence on oil income and the opponents criticising it for its unreliable income sources.

Deputy Mohammad Reza Abbasi-Fard said supporters of the bill had said the envisaged oil income in the bill was lesser than in

the current budget and that they believed it was a good move towards reducing reliance on oil exports.

But he said this would be a positive move if, first of all, Iran had the capability to export more oil but had decided not to, secondly, if she had replaced the lost oil income with sufficient and approrpirate sources, and thirdly that the lost oil income would not have adverse economic and social effects.

The bill calls for a rials 1,650 billion (dlrs 17.5 bn) oil income, down considerably from the government's proposal for rials 1,867 billion (dlrs 19.8 bn). The overall budget, not including the budget of government industries, totals rials 3.638 billion (dlrs 38.7 bn).

Deputy Qassem Sedqiyani defended the cut in the oil income and added that estimates for development spending showed that the officials had prepared a "realistic budget."

He pointed out that large amounts of the budget allocations for development projects had not been expended in the last three years and therefore figures for next year "prevents deceptive spending."

Deputy Abdul-Ali Qanbari stressed that the government cannot rely on oil for its needs. "Oil income is not a reliable source and it needs international marketing."

Other deputies also praised the bill for what they saw as its anti-inflationary policies. But Deputy Ali Movahedi Savodji said the bill had not eliminated problems that existed in previous budgets and that it also did not remove obstacles that exist in the way of agricultural production. He called on the deputies to reject the bill "so that the officials of the country understand that the Majlis is serious in dealing with the budget and they would prepare a more desirable budget."

The Majlis will follow up its debate on Saturday.

At the end of today's open session, the government presented three bills, including one on the formation of a joint Iran-Pakistan shipping line.

Foreign Policy Committee Congratulates Beirut

LD211209 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] With the realization of the first phase of the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Lebanon, culminating in the liberation of the city of Sidon, the leader of Pakistani Shi'ites, expressing his own full support and that of the Pakistani people for Lebanon's Muslim revolutionaries, hailed the expulsion of Zionist forces from that country as a great victory for the Muslim people of Lebanon. According to an IRNA dispatch from Islamabad, Hojjat ol-Eslam Shaykh 'Arif Hoseyn sent a telegram of congratulations to Beirut in the same connection.

A statement of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly reads: The beginning of the phased withdrawal by the Zionist regime from southern Lebanon, marked with the evacuation of the city of Sidon, presages a total victory by Lebanon's deprived Muslim jihad wagers and constitutes a great achievement for world Muslims and the meek.

The dispatch of congratulatory messages to Beirut by Islamic forums and revolutionary personalities continues in connection with the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the city of Sidon.

Economic Delegation Visits Stockholm for Talks

For reportage on the visit to Sweden by Hoseyn Kazempour Ardabili, Iranian deputy foreign minister for international and economic affairs, at the head of a 10-person economic delegation, including talks on regional issues and bilateral relations, see the Sweden subsection of the Nordic Affairs section of the 22 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Nateq-Nuri Rejects Any Ceasefire With Iraq

LD212024 Tehran IRNA in English 1955 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb 21, IRNA — Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said today that no one nation has ever attained its rights from a warring country by sitting at the negotiating table.

Speaking to a group of Islamic combatants and relatives of the martyrs, Nateq-Nuri said the Iranian forces should hold out in the war until the Ba'thist regime is utterly wiped out from Iraq.

He said the Islamic Republic would doubtless continue fighting since "as long as Saddam and his party continue to exist and rule in Iraq, to agree to a ceasefire would mean a traitorous turning from the sacred blood of the martyrs and from the masses."

The minister was addressing a ceremony at the Shahid Motahhari Theological School in commemoration of the first anniversary of the Khaibar Operation, which led to the capture of Iraq's Majnun Island. He said the fate of world's Muslims will be determined by the outcome of the war imposed on Iran by the arrogant powers.

Elsewhere in his speech, Nateq-Nuri lauded the spirit among the Muslim combatants and exalted the martyrs for having embraced martyrdom in order that truth shall prevail.

Joint Staff Command Issues Communique No 2,011

LD211752 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 21 — The Islamic forces blocked the advance of Iraqi troops in the Chazzabeh front in the southern sector of the battle fronts early in the morning on Wednesday, the Joint Staff reported. It said the enemy forces were forced to retreat, killing or wounding a number of them.

In Communique No. 2011, the Joint Staff added that a number of Iraqi personnel attempted to approach the positions of the Islamic forces in the Pich-e Angizeh front, also in the south, early on Wednesday. But the Iraqis were pushed back and some casualties were inflicted on them, it said.

An Iraqi helicopter was shot down in the southern front of Jofeyr on Tuesday, while six enemy group bunkers and one observation post were smashed across the Arvand River Wednesday.

The exchange of fire persisted in the middle and northern sectors of the war fronts in the past 24 hours, being more intense in the Sumar, Kalaleh and Qasr-e Shirin fronts.

Guards Corps Announces Call for Iraqi Volunteers

LD211418 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] The central headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] announced in a statement: Following repeated requests by the Iraqi Muslim brothers resident in Iran to join the ranks of the forces of Islam on the battlefronts of the war of justice against injustice, all the Muslim Iraqi volunteers who have the necessary military training are invited to present themselves to the Malek-e Ashtar base of the IRGC, the Iraqi mobilization bureau in Tehran, or one of the centers of this bureau in Rey, Karaj, Qom, or Qazvin. The volunteers are asked to bring the necessary documents with them showing that they have passed the military training courses. Arrangements will be made afterward to dispatch them to the front.

SAIRI Denounces Saddam's Amnesty to Opposition

GF220746 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Feb 85

[Excerpt] The military unit of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] issued a statement denouncing Saddam's so-claimed decision to declare an amnesty for political opposition. The statement considered the Muslim Iraqi people's ever-increasing activities in the field of struggle and escalating struggle operations against the criminal Iraqi regime the only reply to the terrorist regime's practices and methods.

The military unit of SAIRI called on all Iraqis who have completed their military training to go to SAIRI mobilization centers in Tehran and other Iranian cities between 23 and 26 February to soon join the war fronts against the agents of international arrogance.

SAIRI Spokesman Urges Toppling of Baghdad Regime

GF210626 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] According to IRNA, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] spokesman, gave a speech to a large gathering of a group of SAIRI mobilization members yesterday. He stressed the need for the continued struggle of the Muslim Iraqi crusaders until the final toppling of the ruling regime in Iraq.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi, the head of SAIRI, was also present in the gathering. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim commented on the fleeing of the Zionists from southern Lebanon and said: the Muslims in south Lebanon, while bearing financial and physical losses have proven that victory over the occupying regime of Qods is not a difficult task and that Muslims can overcome their enemies with sincerity and by struggling in the path of God.

Also present at this ceremony were several members of the SAIRI mobilization unit who sang some songs and recited poetry in praise of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the firm resolution of the Muslim Iraqi crusaders until the toppling of the regime in Baghdad.

IRNA Reports on Afghan Mujahidin Actions

32 Soviet Soldiers Killed

LD201327 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 20 IRNA — Thirty-two Russian soldiers were killed and another six captured by Afghan mujahidin when they attacked the joint Soviet and government forces in Afghanistan's Paktia Province early this week, a mujahidin source told IRNA here Wednesday. In the course of the surprise attack, six of the mujahidin were martyred, the source added.

Farah Province Clash

LD211813 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Mashhad, Khorusan Pr., Feb. 21, IRNA — Muslim revolutionaries in Afghanistan killed at least four Soviet soldiers in a clash with Soviet forces near the town of Qalchikah in the Farah Province.

In the fighting, which is still raging near the town, Soviet troops tried to occupy mujahidin strongholds, but their advance was checked, and two of their tanks were destroyed on Tuesday and Wednesday [19-20 February].

Meanwhile, a communique published by the Islamic Society of Afghanistan commemorated the anniversary of the Afghan peoples uprising against the occupying troops on Feb. 21, 1980, while praising the people for having bravely stood against the Soviet troops.

Soviet Warplanes Level Afghan Village

LD211836 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 21 Feb 85

[Text] Zahedan, Baluchestan va Sistan Pr., Feb. 21, IRNA — Soviet warplanes this week leveled the village of Samur near Joveyn in Farah Province of Afghanistan, dropping 27 two-metre-long bombs on the village. Mojahideen sources said extensive damages have been inflicted upon the village, though no precise figures are available on the number of casualties.

Tudeh-Saudi Communist Party Statement Viewed

TA210900 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1930 GMT 20 Feb 85

[Unattributed commentary: "A Beginning for Unity of Action and Thought"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Amid conditions in which imperialism, headed by world-devouring America, and regional reaction, including freedom-killing regimes such as the Islamic regime ruling in our homeland, are acting within a unified front against nationalliberation and democratic movements, the solidarity and unity of all revolutionary, progressive, and patriotic forces in every country and the unity of action of all revolutionary anti-imperialist forces in the region acquire particular (?political) significance.

In this connection the meeting of representatives of the Iranian Tudeh Party Central Committee and Saudi Arabia's Communist Party Central Committee, which took place in mid-January 1985, enjoys special importance. Both in Saudi Arabia and in our own tyranny and-mullah-stricken Iran, regimes are in power whose logic toward the masses and revolutionary patriotic forces is based on the club, the prison, torture, and execution. Both Saudi Arabia and the Islamic regime, with their treacherous policies, aid in a different way the penetration and escalation of world-devouring America's military presence in the region.

As *NAMEH MARDOM*, organ of the Iranian Tudeh Party Central committee, reported in its issue of 7 February, at the gathering of the delegation of the Iranian Tudeh Party Central Committee and that of the Saudi Arabian Communist Party, the political and social situation in Iran and Saudi Arabia and the anti-imperialist progressive struggles of the patriots of both countries, as well as the aggressive policy of imperialism and reaction in the region, were reviewed in an atmosphere of complete understanding and solidarity. At this meeting and exchange of views, the two sides issued a statement reached containing the following conclusion:

1. Iran and Saudi Arabia are two countries in which tyrannical self-centered medieval (?regimes) are ruling. Although these two regimes have differences between them, in both countries a regime of terror and repression prevails. The brutal suppression of national progressive forces constitutes the main nucleus of the policy of both regimes.

After referring to the dependence of Iran and Saudi Arabia on America, the statement says: The February 1979 revolution in Iran was an anti-imperialist, antidespotic, and (?popular) revolution which at the first stage [words indistinct], but in the years following this, with the treachery of leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the revolution's popular targets, these positive changes were violated. By recklessly violating the human rights declaration, as well as the Constitution's principles regarding democratic freedoms, leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran turned Iran into the prison of millions of Iranians.

After referring to some of the Iranian regime's crimes, namely [word indistinct], execution, long-term prison sentences for patriots, including members of the Iranian Tudeh Party, and the banning of the activity of progressive parties and organizations and labor unions, the statement says: In Saudi Arabia, too, there is no trace of democratic rights and freedoms. The government and the legislative and judicial organs are in fact tools in the hands of tyrannical shaykhs who treat dissenting patriots brutally. In both countries theocratic dictatorship prevails.

2. After referring to the destructive U.S.-desired Iran-Iraq war and the enormous material and human losses stemming from the war for both countries, the statement notes: This war, which has been portrayed by leaders of the Islamic Republic as a religious war, and which they present as a war between Islam and blasphemy, is a destructive war that has no connection whatsoever within Islam. This war is beneficial to imperialism, and foremost of all to aggressive U.S. imperialism, which desires the prolongation of the war between Iran and Iraq. This war which has allowed Washington to (?consolidate) its presence in the Persian Gulf region [words indistinct]. Thus the danger posed to the independence and territorial integrity of all the region's countries is one of the calamitous results of the Iran-Iraq war. We strongly condemn the war's prolongation and demand its immediate end. We support efforts by the United Nations [words indistinct] and by other international organizations to end this futile and devastating war. Disputes between Iran and Iraq should be resolved through political talks.

3. After referring to imperialist and Zionist plots to suppress the Palestine liberation movement and to create a schism in this movement, the statement condemns these plots and expresses the support of both parties for the Palestine liberation movement. The statement says: We demand the immediate withdrawal of the occupying Israeli forces from Lebanon and other lands of Arab countries, and believe that the Middle East problem should be settled at a conference attended by all interested countries, including the Soviet Union.

After referring to aggravation of (?tensions) through a policy of nuclear armament by imperialism, headed by America, the statement by the Iranian Tudeh Party Central Committee and Saudi Arabia's Communist Party Central Committee says: Struggle against a policy of nuclear arms race and its extension to outer space pursued by Washington is the urgent duty of all free and peaceloving persons throughout the world. We support the proposals of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in connection with [words indistinct].

This was the statement by the delegation of the Iranian Tudeh Party Central Committee and that of Saudi Arabia's Communist Party which without a doubt can be the beginning of solidarity and unity of action and thought between progressive forces in the struggle against reactionary, superstitious, antifreedom regimes in both countries.